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THE TIMES

Higher Education

SUPPLEMENT

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Accentuate quality rather than quantity, colleges are urged

by David Walker

In a major speech on the future of colleges of education, Dr William Taylor, director of the London University Institute of Education, has urged them to look beyond their current obsession with numbers, closures and reorganization. Dr Taylor told the North of England Education Conference this week that insufficient attention was being given to the important question of what kind of skills and knowledge the future teacher needed and how such skills ought to be communicated. Instead, there was focusing on the size of colleges and institutes and the number and distribution of student places.



Professor William Taylor—called for national teacher education forum.

He said: "As a result of the years of the past few years we have become obsessed with questions of organization and control at a expense of an interest in those questions of content—the skills and knowledge that we try to communicate—that will ultimately determine the quality of teaching." He went on to argue for centres for teacher education based in universities and polytechnics and a national forum to be called the Education of Teachers Council to coordinate research and stimulate thinking. Dr Taylor was speaking during the second session of the annual conference, which brings together administrators, local authority educationists and university teachers. It is being held this year at Madeley College of Education in Staffordshire, precisely the kind of college which he said would have to close before what he called the "minimum system" of the 1980s is established. He traced the history of the colleges, arguing that they have always been slaves of their own history. Despite all the hopes of the 1960s, a college of education never really grew out of the images associated with its origins. "These images, of isolation, intellectual inadequacy and professional irrelevance; of a disjunction between the day-to-day lecture programme and the school-based periods of practical experience; of the interstitial status of the staff; other teachers nor academics; of the concern that in the early days of the form of suffocating and stable regulations, and latterly an intellectualized absorption with the mechanics of group life, were demonstrably unfair to the variety provided by the 163 institutions that made the system in its heyday." Yet, alas, in a complex world which judgments must necessarily be made on the basis of insufficient information the colleges never managed to generate enough information to correct false stereotypes in their past.

But the real world of teacher training, he said, was not so simple and thought now needed to be paid to what it should look like under the minimum system of the 1980s which would involve 40,000 places, 10,000 for graduates and the equivalent of 10,000 for in-service training. Most surviving units will have more than 750 students. Dr Taylor predicted that the proportion of "consecutively trained" teachers would grow—that is, those given teacher training after a degree or diploma. But he posed the question whether the trend was the outcome of an educational decision or merely a way of simplifying the planning of recruitment and bringing greater flexibility into the system.

Another aspect of the minimum system was in-service training. Some local authorities were understood to be offering their teachers secondment only to local colleges and polytechnics. He commented that while this was an understandable policy in hard times it would prevent teachers obtaining the specialized courses they needed.

Church college closures denied

The Church of England Board of Education this week categorically denied that it had been informed the names of the three Church colleges which were to cease initial teacher training, as reported in last week's *Times*. The *Times* Canon Albert Holtby, general secretary of the Church of England's Board of Education, says the front page report "refers to an alleged announcement by the Government to the Board on decisions made about the Church of England colleges of education. This statement is completely untrue." The letter expresses concern about the origin of the report.

Democratic government of modern universities hailed

At the same conference the vice-chancellor of Keele University hailed the modern university as the embodiment of the democratic principles of devolution, participation, representation and accountability. Professor W. A. Campbell Stewart said the way a university worked by combining academic, student and lay members together in committees which decided things by majority votes exemplified these principles. He also eulogized the exterior government of British universities. The University Grants Committee is a unique body, the envy of other countries. Composed of a majority of academics of high standing, together with heads of schools and business representatives, the UGC consults and advises universities and acts as their representative to the Government, providing on the one hand a buffer and on the other a means of planning with a maximum of flexibility. "It is of the highest importance that this body should continue to discharge its function and to retain the confidence of both the universities, the public and the Government."

Professor Stewart warned against attempting to merge the universities with other institutions of higher education. Some kind of expanded grants committee representing all higher education held the danger of bringing the universities more directly under government control. Another, more subtle, danger lay in the quality of school students. The universities depended, he argued, on a continuing supply of pupils from the schools well prepared for higher education. It had to be remembered that university courses did not lead on directly from the pattern of comprehensive secondary schooling. "University education has two functions, first to serve the social needs, second to provide for the development of the individual person." Academic training had always to take place within the broader "background," Professor Stewart said.

Church college closures denied

TUC spurns dons' plea

The Association of University Teachers has lost its battle for representation on the Government's Genetic Manipulation Advisory Group. The four employee members will include two ASTMS representatives—Ms Donna Haber and Professor Robert Williamson of St Mary's Hospital Medical School—TUC medical adviser Dr Ronald Owen, and Dr Derek Elliott from Devon Down, for the Institute of Professional Civil Servants. The TUC refused to nominate an AUT representative on the grounds that some of the scientific members of the advisory group would also be AUT members. The resulting panel meant that the worker representatives were appointed in time for the first meeting before Christmas.

TUC spurns dons' plea

The man who has been handling the issue for the TUC, Mr Peter Jakes, head of social insurance, said this week he was still hoping to persuade the Department of Education and Science to add a fifth union representative. He would then put forward an AUT nominee. But a DES spokesman said membership was now definitely closed. The Secretary of State, Mrs Shirley Williams, has also added two extra "public interest representatives" to the group: Dr Jerry Raverty, formerly head of the history and philosophy of science at Leeds University, and Dr Merle Jahoda, professor emeritus of social psychology at Sussex University and senior consultant to the university's Science Policy Research Unit.

APR 11 1977

Universities continued

SOUTH AFRICA
UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DEPUTY DEPARTMENTAL
LECTURER

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY
ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENTS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

SOUTHAMPTON
THE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
CIVIL ENGINEERING
CONSEQUENT UPON THE
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

OXFORD
THE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATIONAL STUDIES
ASSISTANT TUTOR IN
EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

SURREY
THE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICS AND
ENGINEERING
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED
FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT
LECTURER IN PHYSICS

SUSSEX
THE UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR CONTINUING
EDUCATION
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED
FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT
LECTURER IN THE CENTRE

ST. ANDREWS
THE UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGICAL
LABORATORY
RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

ST. ANDREWS
THE UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGICAL
LABORATORY
RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

Polytechnics

The Polytechnic
of North London
Faculty of Humanities
Head of Department of
Extension Studies (Grade IV)

A new department has been formed by the amalgamation of the
Department of Social Studies and Applied Languages and of
the Sub-Department of Health, Physical Education and
Recreation. The Head will lead the multi-disciplinary staff

BRISTOL
THE POLYTECHNIC
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR THE
POST OF ASSISTANT LECTURER IN
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE POLYTECHNIC
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
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experience is required for 2nd or 3rd-year BA Surface
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THE POLYTECHNIC
HUDDESFIELD

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ACA/115

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National Diploma in Hotel and
Catering Administration and the B.Sc.
Catering Studies course.

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LECTURER IN
MATHEMATICS

Grants

Association over two years six months
to carry out a programme of research
into computer graphic application
software systems, under the direction
of Mr A. B. J. H.

Community medicine—£1,557 from the
Scottish studies—£7,274 from the SSRC
over one year three months, in
continued support of research on the
history and traditions of Tires, under the
direction of Mr E. R. Cresson.

PORTSMOUTH
THE POLYTECHNIC
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRIC
AND ELECTRONIC
ENGINEERING
RESEARCH OFFICER

LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC
The Higher Institute of Electronics
Bani Walid
Libyan Arab Republic
The Institute is mainly an undergraduate school and
lectures are conducted in English. Students take a three-
year course in Electronics and Communications Engineering

Inner London Education
Authority
LONDON COLLEGE
OF FASHION
DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN
requires as early as possible
LECTURER GRADE I

Table with 5 columns: Position, From, To, Annual, Total. Rows include Professor, Associate Prof., Assistant Prof., Lecturer, Asst. Lecturer, Lab. Technician.

Centre for Socio-Legal Studies
Wolfson College, Oxford
DIRECTORSHIP IN SOCIAL SCIENCE
Applications are invited from economists, sociologists, political
and other social scientists for the post of Joint
Director of the Centre.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
Applications are invited from economists, sociologists, political
and other social scientists for the post of Joint
Director of the Centre.

NOTICE BOARD

DARWIN COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA
HEAD OF
LEARNING RESOURCES
CENTRE

The Darwin Community College, opened in 1974, was designed
to meet the varied educational needs of both Darwin and the
Northern Territory of Australia. Its programmes include
vocational studies, general studies, biological studies,
teacher education, creative and applied arts, business and
management and technology and science.

LONDON
GENERAL BOARD OF THE
LIBRARIAN
LIBRARIAN
Applications are invited from
qualified persons for the post of
Librarian at the General Board of
the Librarian, London.

OXFORD
BODLEIAN LIBRARY
Applications are invited for
the post of Assistant Librarian
at the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

AUSTRALIA
NURSERY SCHOOL
TEACHERS COLLEGE
A COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
The college, established in
1930, is housed in modern
premises and offers all facilities
for innovative teacher education
programmes.

LONDON, E.2
THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL
STUDIES IN MEDICAL CARE
has a vacancy for a senior
lecturer in the Department of
Social Studies in Medical Care.

NALGO
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
DISTRICT EDUCATION
OFFICERS
Applications are invited for
the post of District Education
Officer in the National Association
of Local Government Officers.

LONDON, W.1
Private colleges seeking
qualified persons for the post of
Librarian at the General Board
of the Librarian, London.

Open University
programmes
January 8-14

Sunday, January 8
9.30-10.30 AM: Introduction to the
Open University
10.30-11.30 AM: The Open University
11.30-12.30 PM: The Open University

THE NEXT
"REVIEW
OF NEW
COURSES"
FEATURE
will be on
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February 4
1977
For further details of
advertising please
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01-837 1234
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invites applications for the following post:
LECTURER IN ENGLISH (ZAMBIA)
UNL Institute for Manshala, Lusaka
To teach English to approximately 60E level; set and
apply proficiency tests; develop ESP courses and
materials; organise and run an English Language
Laboratory.

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